

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 1, insert the following paragraph as the first sentence after the amended title TYRE
FOR A VEHICLE WHEEL:

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/843,769, filed April 30, 2001, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO"), which is a continuation of International Patent Application No. PCT/EP99/07962, filed October 20, 1999, in the European Patent Office; additionally, Applicant claims the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 98830662.7, filed October 30, 1998, in the European Patent Office; further, Applicant claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on provisional application No. 60/114,158, filed December 29, 1998, in the USPTO; the contents of all of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.--

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-14.

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment together with an Appendix to Preliminary Amendment and a divisional patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b).